(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A project under the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations entitled "Training in the Sea Safety Development Programme" has been approved for implementation in the coastal urea of East Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh with an outlay of US$ 316000. This pilot project has provision for installing shore to boat communication system on fishing vessels, saftcy equipment and live saving devices and outboard motors for selected beneficiaries. The project has provision for training of beneficiaries in the use and maintenance of the equipment.

Adverse Impact of Closure of Shrimp Farm

2104. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM BHAJ1RAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers employed in over 2000 shrimp-farms are likely to be thrown out of employment with the closure of these farms as per Supreme Court's order, besides its adverse impact on food-production and exports;

(b) if so, the number of persons to be so affected; and

(c) the steps taken to provide them with alternative employment and rehabilitate their families?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of the judgement of the Supreme Court. The matter is sub-judicc.

Schemes for Promotion of Horticulture

2105. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes to promote Horticulture in the country; and

(b) whether Government are proposing to give some subsidy to the persons engaged in Horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) For the promotion of horticulture in the country, various schemes relating to development of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, mushroom, coconut, cashewnut, spices, cocoa, arcacanut, bctclving and promoting use of plastic in horticultural crops, arc being implemented. Under these schemes various type of assistance/subsidies arc already being provided to the farmers for improving production/productivity of different crops.

Fall in Foodgrains Production

2106. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Economic Survey has indicated a 3-4% fall in Foodgrains production;

(b) whether the fall in Foodgrains production may result in increase in prices and also necessitate imports; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the shortfall in production of Foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) According to the Economic Survey 1996-97, the fall in foodgrains production in 1995-96 is 3.4 per cent a s compared to 1994-95. However, the production of foodgrains during 1996-97 has been assessed to be 191.18 million tonnes, which is 3.3 percent higher than that during 1995-96.

(b) and (c) In view of the fall in production of foodgrains during 1995-96 and the consequent shortfall in procurement for the central pool in 1996-97, the Government has decided to import upto twenty lakh tonnes of wheat to contain the rise in prices of foodgrains during 1996-97. The State Trading Corporation of India has already finalised contracts for import of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia, Canada & Argentina. The Government has not taken a final decision on import of any item for Public Distribution System during 1997-98 so far.

Further to increase the production and productivity of foodgrains the Government is implementing various crop specific schemes/programmes besides providing market and price support.

Cases of Soil Erosion

2107. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the case of soil erosion in different parts of the country have been brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take action thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In last three years nine proposals for inclusion of new catchments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR) have been received due to soil erosion problems for treatment. These catchments, are Ghaggar (Haryana, Punjab and J&K), Kosi (Bihar), Sardar sarovar Project (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat), Thein Dam (J&K, Himachal Pradesh) Upper Kolab (A.P., M.P. and Orissa), Upper Indrawati (M.P. and Orissa), Kabini (Kerala and Karnataka), Lok Tak Lake (Manipur) and Vaigai Periyar (Tamil Nadu & Kerala).

(c) and (d) Six catchments, namely, Ghaggar, Kosi, Sardar Sarovar, Thein Dam, Upper Kolab and Upper Indrawati have been included for treatment under Centrally Sponsored schemes of RVP and FPR. The remaining three catchments would be considered alongwith other new catchments for inclusion during Ninth Five Year Plan.

कृषि के आधुनिकरण हेतु नीति

2108. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहनः** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार ने कृषि के आधुनिकरण हेतु कोई नीति बनाई हैं और इस संबध में राज्य सरकारों की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है, और

(ख) कृषि के आधुनिकरण के संबध मे देश के राज्यों की स्थिति क्या है और किन-किन राज्यों में सावर्जनिक आधुनिकरण किया जा चुका है और किन-किन राज्यों में कृषि के आधुनिकरण को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी गई हैं ?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) कृषि की आर्थिक व्यावहार्यता एंव सर्वांगीण विकास को तेज करने के लिए द्वारा कृषि नीति संकल्प का एक प्रारूप तैयार किया गया था। इस पारूप पर नई दिल्ली में 19 फरवरी, 1997 को हुई राज्य कृषि मंत्रियों की बैठक में विचार किया गया और मोटे तौर पर इसे अनुमोदित कर दिया गया।

(ख) कृषि आधुनिकारण के अंतर्गत मुख्य रूप से आधुनिक आदानों का प्रयोग, बीजो की नई अधिक उपज देने वाली किस्में एंव आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी आते हैं जिसमें फसलों की प्रति हैक्टेयर उत्पादकता में वृद्धि होती है । पूरे देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में पैदा की जाने वाली मुख्य फसलों के संदर्भ में एक विवरण संलग्र हैं जिसमें खाद्यान्नों की प्रति हैक्टेयर उत्पादकता दी गई है (नीचे देखिए)। सभी राज्यों के विकास नियोजन का मुख्य उद्देश्य उत्पादकता स्तर में वृद्धि के माध्यम से कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि करना है।